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Department of State

POL 14 Viet S (1581)

TELEGRAM

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ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 RSR-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-06 H-02 INR-06 L-03
NSAE-00 NSC-10 P-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-14 USIA-12 AID-20
UPW-01 IO-11 /106 W
063435

P R 011103Z SEP 71
FM AMEMBASSY SAIGON
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 9460
INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK
CINCPAC
AMCONSUL DA NANG
USDEL FRANCE
AMEMBASSY PHNOM PENH
AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE

UNCLAS SAIGON 14097

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

SUBJECT: MINH STATEMENT

REF: SAIGON 13926

1. THE PRESS OFFICE OF GENERAL DUONG VAN MINH ISSUED SEPTEMBER 1 "COMMUNIQUE NO. 13" IN THE FOLLOWING OFFICIAL ENGLISH VERSION:

2. BEGIN TEXT THE PRESS OFFICE OF GENERAL DUONG VAN MINH HAS THE HONOUR TO STATE AS FOLLOWS:

3. ON 29 AUGUST 1971, THE AGENCY UPI SENT OUT THE FOLLOWING: ACCORDING TO A "DIPLOMATIC SOURCE" WHO ASKED THAT HIS NAME BE WITHHELD", GENERAL DUONG VAN MINH HAD ASKED THE UNITED STATES TO ORGANIZE THE PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION OF SOUTH VIET-NAM AND STILL WANTED THE UNITED STATES TO ARRANGE FOR THEM TO CONTINUE TO PARTICIPATE IN THE ELECTION.

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4. ACCORDING TO AFP OF THE SAME DAY, THE ABOVE MENTIONED

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DEPARTMENT OF STATE A/CDC/MR
REVIEWED BY Dan Ige DATE 1/26/82
RDS☐or XDS☐EXT. DATE
TS AUTH. REASON(S)
ENDORSE EXISTING MARKINGS ☐
DECLASSIFIED☐ RELEASABLE☑
RELEASE DENIED☐
PA or FOI EXEMPTIONS

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INFORMATION CAME FROM THE UNITED STATES AMBASSADOR ELLSWORTH BUNKER.

5. THE PRESS OFFICE OF GENERAL DUONG VAN MINH WILHES TO STATE ITS VIEWS AS FOLLOWS:

1) THE "DIPLOMATIC SOURCE" WHICH HAS FABRICATED THE ABOVE STORY COULD ONLY BE A MAN WITH A COLONIALIST MENTALITY. NO NORMAL VIETNAMESE COULD REQUEST THE UNITED STATES TO ORGANIZE THE ELECTION OF HIS CHIEF OF STATE. THE ABOVE "SOURCE" COULD ONLY BE SLANDEROUS, INSOLENT AND AIM AT DAMAGING THE PRESTIGE OF THOSE WHO DO NOT WISH TO BE SERVANTS OF FOREIGN POWERS. IF THAT SOURCE ORIGINATES INDEED FROM THE UNITED STATES AMBASSADOR, THEN THAT WOULD BE CAUSE FOR SADNESS FOR THE AMERICAN PEOPLE.

2) FOR A LONG TIME, GENERAL DUONG VAN MINH HAS REQUESTED ONE ONLY THING: THAT THE UNITED STATES NEUTRALIZES THE COLOSSAL MACHINE WHICH THEY THEMSELVES HAD BULT UP AND FOR WHICH THEY ARE STILL PAYING, BECAUSE THIS MACHINE IS BEING USED FOR RIGGING IN THE ELECTIONS. IN THE PRESENT REALITIES, ONLY THE AMERICANS COULD DO THAT. GENERAL DUONG VAN MINH HAS CALLED SUCH AN ATTITUDE "POSITVE NEUTRALITY"M THEDOCUMENTS MADE PUBLIC ON 20 AUGUST 1971 CLEARLY SHOW HOW ELABORATE THE RIGGING PLASN COULD BE AND THAT THEY HAD BEEN APPLIED SEVERAL MONTHS PRIOR TO THE ELECTION. THE UNITED STATES AMBASSADOR WILSWORTH BUNKER HIMSELF, IN HIS MEETING WITH GENERAL DUONG VAN MINH ON 19 AUGUST 1971, CONFIRMED THE AUTHENTICITY OF THE ABOVE MENTIONED DOCUMENT. THE UNITED STATEDS EMBASSY HAS ALSO CONFIRMED THE AUTHENTICITY OF THAT DOCUMENT TO CORRESPONDENT KEYES BEECH OF THE CHICAGO DAILY NEWS.

3) SINCE HAS WITHDRAWAL FROM THE COMING PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION, GENERAL DUONG VAN MINH HAS HAD NO CONTACT WHATSOEVER WITH ANY MEMBER OF THE UNITED STATES EMBASSY. THERFORE THERE CAN BE NO POSSIBILITY OF GENERAL DUONG VAN MINH'S WANTING THE UNITED STATES TO ARRANGER FOR HIM TO RUN ANEW. THE POSITION OF GENERAL DUONG VAN MINH HAS REMAINED UNCHANGED TO THIS DAY: THE GENERAL DECIDED TO ENTER THE PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION PREVIOUSLY NOT WITH A VIEW TO SECURING THE PRESIDENTIAL CHAIR, BUT ONLY WITH A VIEW TO FIGHTING FOR THE RIGHT OF THE PEOPLE OF VIETNAM TO EXERCISE TRUE SELF-DETERMINATION IN ORDER TO MOVE TOWARDS

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PEACE. THIS REQUIRES A COMPLETELY FREE AND HONEST ELECTION. IN THE PRESENT CONDITIONS, THERE CAN BE NO FREE AND HONEST ELECTION. THE RECENT LEGISLATIVE ELECTIONS, ESPECIALLY IN VINH BINH, BAC LIEU, PHUOC LONG, BINH TUY ETC... THE PRESENT GOVERNMENT HAS INDULGED IN SHAMELESS FRAUD AND OPPRESSION OF THE OPPOSITION CANDIDATES. THIS FACT IS A CLEAR INDICATION OF WHAT ONE SHOULD EXPECT FROM THE OCTOBER 3 ELECTION, IF IT TAKES PLACE. SAIGON. SEPTEMBER 1ST, 1971
NGUYEN HUU CHUNG END TEXT

6. COMMENT: WE HAVE RESPONDED WITH NO COMMENT TO REPEATED PRESS REQUESTS TODAY FOR A REACTIMN TO GENERAL MINH'S ALLEGATIONS. THE MINH CITATION OF AFP MAY REFER TO A SENTENCE IN THE AFP STORY WHICH READS: QUOTE MINH, FOR EXAMPLE, EXPECTED US TO PRACTICALLY ORGANIZE THE ELECTIONS, ONE OFFICIAL REMARKED. UNQUOTE. FRANCOIS PELOU, AFP CORRESPONDENT WHO WROTE THE ARTICLE, FEELS THAT THE MINH RELEASE IS INACCURATE AND AN UNFAIR INTERPRETATION OF WHAT HE WROTE. HE HAS TOLD THE MINH PEOPLE SO.
BUNKER

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CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-06 H-02 INR-06 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10

P-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-14 RSR-01 /074 W

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O R 011432Z SEP 71 ZFF-1
FM AMEMBASSY SAIGON
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 9463
INFO USDEL FRANCE

C O N F I D E N T I A L SAIGON 14100

SUBJECT: GVN ANNOUNCES ONLY ONE SLATE IN PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION

1. A COMMUNIQUE OF THE OFFICE OF THE ACTING PRIME MINISTER READ OVER TV 8:00 P.M. SEPTEMBER 1 STATED IN SUBSTANCE AS FOLLOWS: SINCE ON AUGUST 26 THE KY-LE SLATE INFORMED THE SUPREME COURT THAT THEY WOULD NOT PARTICIPATE IN THE PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION, AND SINCE THE SUPREME COURT MET ON AUGUST 31 AND DECIDED TO ACCEPT THE DEFACTO SITUATION, THE OFFICE OF THE ACTING PRIME MINISTER HEREBY INSTRUCTS ALL GOVERNMENT AGENCIES THAT 1) THE KY-LE SLATE IS NOT PARTICIPATING IN THE ELECTIONS AND THERE ACCORDINGLY IS BUT ONE SLATE, AND 2) ALL OFFICES MUST CONTINUE PREPARATIONS FOR THE ELECTIONS SCHEDULED ON OCTOBER 3. (FULL TEXT WILL FOLLOW).

2. PRIME MINISTER'S PRESS SECRETARY BUU NGHI (PROTECT SOURCE) CONFIRMED TO VOA CORRESPONDENT THAT THE PRESIDENT HAD ORDERED ACTING PRIME MINISTER NGUYEN LUU VIEN TO HURRY THE DRAFTING AND ISSUANCE OF THIS COMMUNIQUE TODAY, AND HAD STATED THAT HE WOULD BE DELAYING HIS PLANNED TV ADDRESS UNTIL AFTER THE COMMUNIQUE WAS PUT OUT. SHUSTER OF NYTIM INFORMS US THAT HE HAS SEEN COPY OF OFFICIAL LETTER FROM THE SUPREME COURT TO THE EXECUTIVE WHICH STATED ONLY THAT SINCE THE KY-LE SLATE WOULD NOT PARTICIPATE, AND SINCE THE LAW DID NOT CONTAIN SPECIFIC PROVISIONS FOR AN UNCONTESTED ELECTION, IT WOULD BE THE RESPONSIBILITY OF THE EXECUTIVE TO ADAPT THE CARRYING OUT OF THE LAW TO THE PRESENT SITUATION.

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